

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13794 151538Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 /160 W
-----076264 160828Z /10

R 151513Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3134
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, SALT, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: PRAVDA EDITORIAL CRITICIZES U.S. ON SALT

1. IN AN OTHERWISE PROSAIC LEAD EDITORIAL ON DIS-
ARMAMENT, JUNE 15 PRAVDA TAKES A SHARP SLAP AT THE
U.S. ADMINISTRATION SALT POLICY. IT CLAIMS THAT
THE "U.S. GOVERNMENT" IS SHOWING "INDECISIVENESS
AND INCONSISTENCY" AND THAT IT IS ACTING WITH
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 13794 151538Z

CAUTIOUS REGARD FOR THE "MILITARISTIC CIRCLES" WHICH
ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN TO BLOCK SALT AND CONTINUE
RATHE ARMS RACE IN NUCLEAR ROCKETRY. THE EDITORIAL
REPEATS AN OLD REFRAIN, WHICH HAS LAID DORMANT
SINCE THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE TO MOSCOW IN
APRIL, THAT THERE ARE THOSE IN THE U.S. WHO ARE
STILL SEEKING "UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES" BY PLAYING ON

SOVIET PREPAREDNESS TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT. THE SINGLE SALT PARAGRAPH CLOSES WITH THE COMMENT THAT "UNDOUBTEDLY, BY MUTUAL EFFORTS IT IS POSSIBLE, ON THE BASIS OF REASONABLE, REALISTIC COMPROMISE, TO CONCLUDE THE ELABORATION OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH FAIRLY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES."

2. COMMENT: THE PLACEMENT OF THIS SLAP IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN PRAVDA GIVES IT MORE FORCE THAN IT MIGHT HAVE HAD IN A LESS AUTHORITATIVE PIECE INSIDE. IT CONTINUES THE QUITE NEGATIVE LINE WHICH THE SOVIET PRESS HAS BEEN PUSHING PARTICULARLY HARD WITH REGARD TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR SEVERAL DAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, YESTERDAY'S REPORTAGE OF SECRETARY VANCE'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE U.S. POLICY ON NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO GET GOOD OR, AT LEAST, STRAIGHT-FORWARD COVERAGE. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA INSTEAD PRINTED A TASS STORY WITH A PARAGRAPH NOTING THAT THE U.S. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS "BY ALL APPEARANCES" BROUGHT ABOUT BECAUSE OF THE "POSITIVE REACTION OF THE NON-NUCLEAR POWERS" TO THE SOVIET NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCE STATEMENT. TASS REPORT GOES ON TENDENTIOUSLY TO CITE U.S. PRESS REPORTS THAT ANNOUNCEMENT WILL HAVE NO "PRACTICAL" IMPACT ON U.S. POLICY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 13794 151538Z

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE NEGATIVE, ALMOST REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION DOES. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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